



NEW O.A.C. CHIEF—Brig. Gen. Robert G. Butler (right) will succeed Brig. Gen. W. E. Laidlaw (left) tomorrow as chief of the Ordnance Ammunition Command in Joliet.

Gen. Butler Takes Over as Chief of OAC

Brig. Gen. Robert G. Butler will arrive in Joliet tomorrow to become chief of the Ordnance Ammunition Command here.

He succeeds Brig. Gen. W. E. Laidlaw, OAC commanding general for the past two years, whose transfer was recently announced.

Gen. Laidlaw, together with his wife, daughter and son, will fly to the Panama Canal Zone about June 24. On the 26th he will begin his new duties there as chief of staff on the Army's Caribbean command.

As the principal assistant to Maj. Gen. Lionel C. McGarr, commanding general of all Army forces in the Caribbean, Gen. Laidlaw will have a key role in the Army's defense plans for the entire Caribbean area, which includes the vital Panama canal.

AS HEAD OF the Ordnance Ammunition Command here since September 1952, Gen. Laidlaw has directed the Army's nationwide program of ammunition procurement and production. This program in 1952 and 1953 amounted to about \$2 billion annually, and included the command and supervision of 23 ammunition installations of the Army Ordnance corps, one of which is the local Joliet Arsenal.

Gen. Laidlaw graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1926, and transferred to ordnance from the infantry in 1931. Since then, except for time spent in special schooling at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and elsewhere, he has served in various important ordnance corps posts in this country and abroad.

From 1942 to 1945, he directed the shipment of all ordnance material from east and gulf coast ports to the European and Mediterranean theaters of war, and had taken up the same duties at San Francisco when the war in Japan ended.

AFTER A SHORT tour of duty in Germany after the war, he spent four years as ordnance chief of the Fourth Army at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas before his appointment in 1951 as commandant of the Ordnance school at Aberdeen, Md., where he was promoted to brigadier general in 1952.

Gen. Butler comes to Joliet from the Office of the Chief of Ordnance in Washington, where he spent the past two years as chief of the ammunition branch, research and development division.

A native of Middleboro, Mass., Gen. Butler graduated from West Point in 1923 as a coast artillery officer and transferred to the ordnance corps in 1936.

His 18 years of ordnance corps service has included various important and significant assignments, most of them related to the research and development of ordnance materiel, and to the military application of atomic energy.

DURING MOST of World War II he was engaged in ammunition research and development in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, and was ordnance officer of the Pacific Theater in 1945.

In 1945-48 and 1951-53, Gen. Butler was connected with the division of military application, Atomic Energy Commission. From 1945 to 1951 he was logistics (supply) chief of the U. S. Army in Alaska.

Like Gen. Laidlaw, Gen. Butler has had extensive special schooling during his Army career. He received a master of science degree in engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1934, graduated from the Ordnance school in 1935, and from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1949. His decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Army Commendation Ribbon with cluster. He is also an honorary officer of the Order of the British Empire.